

To the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Public Hearing on 2013 Legislative Proposals
Thursday, November 29, 2012
Public Testimony addressing Commission Proposals on:

C. Certificates of Rehabilitation:

**Good Afternoon to the Chair (Honorable Joseph M. Shortall)
and Connecticut Sentencing Commission**

Comment:

I believe that the Provisional Pardon program is and was a great idea and has the possibility of being a great tool to help applicants who have proven themselves to the Board of Pardons that they have the ability and the desires to move forward with their life in a positive way.

I do not agree with permitting other agencies, such as Superior Court Judges, and the probation program, to be handing out the Provisional Certificates. This could take away credibility of the Certificates. I strongly suggest that it should stay in the hands of the Board of Pardons and Parole at this time; they have become the experts at reviewing the applicants for the Full Expungement and the Provisional Pardon.

I do not agree or disagree with changing the name of the Provisional Pardon, it does have a nice ring to Certificate of Rehabilitation, but if you are really serious about changing this program for the individuals that again have proven that he or she should move on with their life, and be productive citizens being able to have good housing, find good paying employment, and be granted the license that they have earned.

I think that it is possible you can roll all of these into one program, Having they record sealed, **puts some teeth into the Certificate of Rehabilitation**, by sealing the record would sole of these entire problems at once. Sealing there records for 5 years up to 10 years, whatever you decide. I was told that this is big cost factor, how can that be, we are only handling a small number of certificates at this time and I do not believe that the number is going to increase over night, no matter what changes you make to the certificate.

We are putting the cart before the horse. If you decide not to use my recommendation of sealing applicant's records, then we need to approach the employers and the housing agencies first; and then we need to educate them, and explain to them the process of reviewing the application. Most of these agencies would be in agreement with the certificate.

Respectfully Submitted,

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